



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY MEDIA ADVISORY

Department of Toxic Substances Control

T - 09 - 04

For Immediate Release

February 25, 2004

Contact: Lisa Gray

916.324.0936

Ron Baker

916.324.3142

Local Vehicle Repair Shop Recognized for Pollution Prevention Efforts

Sacramento --- Encouraging all auto repair shops in the state to participate in state sponsored pollution prevention training, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Director Ed Lowry recognized Pro Auto for becoming a Model Pollution Prevention Shop (Model Shop) during a televised appearance on February 25, 2004. Pro Auto, located at 2345 Stanislaus Street in the City of Fresno, is the first small repair shop in Fresno County to receive Model Shop status from DTSC.

"This is an achievement worth repeating at all auto shops that operate in our state," said Lowry. "The state's Vehicle Service and Repair Program and Model Shop Programs demonstrate that pollution prevention techniques can work. Even more impressive are the profits gained and benefits provided to the environment." Lowry added.

During the Dr. Car Care feature on the Great Day Morning Show on KMPH-TV Channel 26, Director Lowry presented Pro Auto Shop owner Cary Biggert with a certificate of recognition for having qualified as a Model Shop through DTSC's Vehicle Service and Repair program. Mr. Biggert is also Dr. Car Care on the Great Day show.

The VSR program provides free training and technical assistance to auto repair shops to help reduce the amount of hazardous waste they generate. The voluntary program provides opportunities to increase sales and productivity while reducing operating expenses by minimizing or preventing the generation of hazardous wastes.

More than 400 individual repair shops, local governments, corporations, state garages and automobile dealerships, including the AAA of Northern California, NAPA Auto Parts, Ford, Auto Service Council of California and Honda participate in the VSR Program and the Pollution Prevention Model Shop Program.

To become a Model Shop an auto repair facility must fulfill a set of requirements which reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated:

- Completion of pollution prevention training developed by DTSC
- Completion of a pollution prevention assessment of maintenance activities at the facility which contribute to generation of hazardous waste
- Receive a score of at least 100 points on the model shop checklist
- Resolve any environmental violations which may be occurring at the repair facility

These requirements often have the added benefit of saving the business money.

Adjustments to facility design, procedures, and management practices may also be necessary to receive the Model Shop status.

Pro Auto shop staff was trained to select less hazardous and toxic products, on how to use antifreeze recycling technologies, spill prevention and dry shop cleanup methods, and storm water pollution. Staff was also trained to maintain new water-based parts cleaning equipment. Money saved by reducing service costs for the old solvent parts cleaning system is expected to pay for the new cleaning equipment within 12 years of purchase.

Pro Auto, an AAA of Northern California approved auto repair shop, can advertise as an environmentally friendly Model Shop.

Additional information and training materials on the VSR program are available on the DTSC Web site at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention/VSR/index.html> or by calling 1-800-700-5854.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.